

Millennium Challenge Corporation

Reducing Poverty Through Growth

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT SERVICES TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROJECT MONGOLIA

REQUEST FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is seeking short-term, Information Technology (IT) expert consultant services for the National Labor Market Information System activity of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project of the Mongolia Compact. IT consultant services are needed to complete detailed design and implementation planning for a proposed TVET project expansion.

BACKGROUND

The MCC is a Federal Corporation created under Title VI of the Foreign Operations, Export, Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2004. MCC is based on the principle that aid is most effective in countries that promote good governance, economic freedom, and investments in people. The MCC engages with a number of countries designated as eligible for its assistance and enters into a Compact for assistance with countries that submit quality proposals supporting poverty reduction through economic growth.

The Compact between MCC and the Government of Mongolia was signed in September 2007 and includes vocational and technical training, health sector activities and property rights. The TVET Project is designed to increase the wages of poor Mongolians by improving their technical skills and productivity to meet labor market demand. This goal will be accomplished by 1) strengthening the institutional framework needed to support a demand-driven vocational education system; (2) defining industry-led skills standards for key occupations and translate these standards into modern curricula supported by new instructional materials and equipment; (3) improving teacher training and professional development; and (4) establishment of a career guidance service and labor market information system.

Six expanded components are being assessed by MCC for viability and to determine if the proposed activities meet MCC criteria. One of these activities is to expand the development of the Labor Market Information System (LMIS). The amount budgeted originally under the LMIS (\$850,000) is not sufficient to obtain the required results of a fully functioning and responsive LMIS. Moreover, within the existing budget there is no provision for essential equipment and information technology for creating and maintaining the LMIS database. The Career Guidance System, a key element of the original project, is also insufficiently resourced. In order to link and integrate both systems into a single network will require additional funds. Under the expansion proposal, \$1million is requested of which \$700,000 is allocated to obtaining and/or

upgrading IT, including software, hardware and network access. The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MSWL) is currently implementing a project to establish a Central Labor Bureau/Exchange. The LMIS is a direct support to this effort and the requested IT would be an essential exchange input. The MSWL has submitted to the TVET PIU a list of hardware and software requirements for the Central Labor Bureau/ Exchange and the PIU needs assistance to assess the validity of the request, propose revisions as required to the requested IT including costs, and provide assistance in preparing an installation and testing plan, an operations and maintenance plan and training in the effective use of the new and/or upgraded IT system. The system includes the central office of the Labor Bureau/Exchange in Ulaan Baatar and in designated rural areas of the country that will be connected to the central office, and to each other.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this contract is to support MCC in implementation support to the expanded MCA Mongolia TVET project.

TASKS

The consultant will support the PIU and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor in refining the detailed IT requirements for the LMIS. The specific tasks to be carried out by the consultant are as follow:

Task A: Within the national context of the LMIS, review and further develop the IT system design and equipment needs for an integrated LMIS database and information system, including both hardware and software aspects. With the PIU, prepare a detailed budget for the IT equipment and a procurement plan, including timeline, for purchasing the IT equipment and its installation and testing. Prepare terms of reference/SOW and other documentation required for the procurement of the equipment and its installation.

Task B: Assess the training needs of MSWL staff for the effective operation of the IT equipment including software and hardware support specialists, server administrators, programmers, information security specialists, local network operators and others as appropriate, and prepare a training plan, including budget, to ensure that the required trained staff are in place to effectively maintain and operate the IT equipment and system. Prepare Operations and Maintenance (O&M) plan. Prepare terms of reference(TOR)/statement of work (SOW) for the IT training program.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- IT system and equipment design for the LMIS in the context o the Central Labor Bureau/Exchange
- IT equipment budget (software and hardware) for procurement, including timeline and SOWs
- IT system/equipment installation and testing plan
- IT staff training plan, including continuing or refresher training as required for effective O&M

- IT system and equipment O&M plan
- Presentation and discussion of all final recommendations with the TVET PIU and MSWL

PERFORMANCE LOCATION

Work to be done from Consultants home office, MCC Washington, DC and Ulaan Bator, Mongolia.

WORK DURATION

Five weeks in home office and Ulaan Bator, Mongolia, beginning in August-September 2009. The assignment is expected to include approx. 3 weeks in Mongolia.

DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING

The consultant will provide a draft work plan after two (2) days following contract award. The draft work plan will be reviewed by the MCC Education Team and the TVET Director and PIU. The consultant will provide a report and supporting documentation about midway of the assignment with progress on each of the tasks above. A final report will be submitted to the MCC Education Director and TVET project director at the end of the fourth week. All reports are to be submitted in English by electronic copy.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The ideal candidates for the IT consultant must have:

- a degree in the area of information systems and technology or appropriate experience to compensate for the lack of a degree in IT sciences or closely related fields;
- extensive experience (at least 6 years) designing/implementing IT systems and equipment requirements in developing countries;
- knowledge of IT in the context of labor market information systems;
- experience designing IT training programs; and
- strong written and oral English skills

HOW TO APPLY

Please email your resume/CV with adequate information to determine your qualifications relative to the evaluation factors listed above, proposed consultancy rates on an hourly basis and your earnings history for the past 36 months; to recruitment@mcc.gov and include "IT Consultant for Mongolia" in the subject line.

This announcement closes Friday, July 31, 2009 or open until filled.

The MCC is an equal opportunity employer.